



Greetings!

Welcome to all of the new faces in our Farmington River community, as well as to our returning families. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful summer.

The PTA has already been hard at work to get the wheels spinning for the year, and we have some great things in store. Most notably, in October students in K-6 will have the opportunity to enjoy hands-on outdoor nature workshops with **Flying Deer Nature Center** from New Lebanon, NY. This was made possible by funds raised at the **Jon Berman Concert & Silent Auction** in August 2014. Also in October we will be rolling out our fall fundraiser—**Square One Art**—to benefit the classroom accounts and for teacher spending this school year.

We have three simple goals for this year:

**1) Increase our membership:** By becoming an official member of the PTA (at the small cost of \$5), you are supporting our efforts. This in no way requires you to attend any meetings or events (although we always welcome new participants)!

**2) Identify parent volunteers in the lower grades:** Our current steering committee is skewing toward parents of upper grade students. To ensure that the PTA continues to exist and evolve, we would love to find some new faces who would be interested in joining us at meetings and/or events to learn more about our efforts.

**3) Increase our income from FREE MONEY programs:** These reward programs provide funds to Farmington River when you clip, collect and shop: **Box Tops, Labels for Education, Target REDcard, Price Chopper AdvantEdge card, and MightyNest.** Help us earn more **FREE MONEY!**

We hope you will find this newsletter informative and helpful in keeping you connected to what is happening at school beyond your child's classroom. We're always open to ideas, suggestions and feedback; you can reach us by email at [pta@frrsd.org](mailto:pta@frrsd.org).

Here's wishing everyone a fantastic fall!

Best,  
Wendy



Photo, courtesy Tom Nadolny

**2015/2016 PTA Executive Board, left to right:** Craig Drenga, Vice President (sons Zeb, 4th grade and Rydel, 2nd grade); Kathy Adams, Secretary (son James, 3rd grade); Wendy Berman, President (son Thatcher, 4th grade) and Ilona Packie, Treasurer (sons Max, a Farmington graduate, now in 8th grade at Monument Valley Middle School in Great Barrington and Kenny, a student at UVM).



## FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

### Upcoming PTA Meetings

**September 17, October 8**

**November 12, December 3**

All held Thursdays, 3:15pm  
in the School Library

### Child Care is Available During PTA Meetings!

We hope you'll join us! If you plan to attend PTA meetings, please send your child(ren) with a note stating they will be staying after school. Students are to meet **Karen Yvon** at the benches outside the gym.

### Square One Art Fundraiser

**Dates TBA/more info to follow**

*Our Official Fall Classroom Fundraiser!*

### Flying Deer Nature Workshops

**October 19, 22 & 27**

*A great, hands-on, educational outdoors experience for Grades K-6!*

### Staff Dinner At Parent-Teacher Conferences

**November 10**

*A great opportunity to support the efforts of our great teaching staff!*

"The important thing is not to stop questioning."

—Albert Einstein

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled."

—Plutarch

**REWARD PROGRAMS: Help us earn FREE money!**

We participate in several reward programs that help provide the school with **FREE MONEY** and we need your help to cash in. **Here's how you can help:**

◆ **COLLECT—check it out before you throw it out!**

- **Box Tops for Education:** Clip Box Tops from participating products and send them to school with your child. You can also print coupons for Box Tops products at [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com)! Brands include Betty Crocker, Nature Valley, Pillsbury, Green Giant, Yoplait, General Mills, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex and more!
- **Labels for Education:** Clip labels from participating products and send them to school with your child. See [labelsforeducation.com](http://labelsforeducation.com) for more info. Brands include Campbell's, Chunky, Prego, V8, Pepperidge Farm, Swanson, and Bic.

◆ **JOIN**

- **Target:** If you have a Target REDcard, you can easily use it to support our school. See [target.com/redcard/benefits-target-rewards](http://target.com/redcard/benefits-target-rewards) for more information.
- **PriceChopper:** If you have an AvantEdge card, you can register your card to earn points for our school through the "Tools for Schools" program. See [pricechopper.com/savings/tools-for-schools](http://pricechopper.com/savings/tools-for-schools) for more info. Price Chopper school code is 14062.

◆ **SHOP**

- **MightyNest:** MightyNest is a unique web site that provides you the ability to research, get advice, and buy natural, organic and non-toxic products all in one place! Even better, they **give back 15% on all purchases** to your selected school! Shop online at [mightynest.com](http://mightynest.com).



**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

We're seeking a **Campbell's Labels For Education** Assistant Coordinator to "learn the ropes" and take over for the 2016/17 school year! Interested? Email Wendy at [pta@frrsd.org](mailto:pta@frrsd.org).

**Each month, we'll let you know here where we need help in terms of volunteers, items or assistance. Stay tuned!**



**FUNDRAISING UPDATES**

This fall, students in grades K-6 will have the opportunity to experience nature workshops courtesy of **Flying Deer Nature Center** of New Lebanon, NY. Each grade will have a chance to explore nature at our school with **Flying Deer** experts. These workshops were made possible by funds raised at the **Jon Berman Benefit Concert & Silent Auction** in August 2014.

We plan to keep you updated on our fundraising efforts each month in this section. Our first fundraiser this year is the **Square One Art Classroom Fundraiser**. 50% raised will go to the classroom accounts and follow your child's class through to fund their 6th grade field trip; the other 50% will be available for their teacher to spend this year as they see fit! More details announced soon!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Karen Yvon** collects clothes (for all ages) and household goods, then distributes them to people in town and elsewhere, **FOR FREE!** If you seek items or wish to donate, please email [Kay239@gfluniverse.org](mailto:Kay239@gfluniverse.org) or call **413-848-2507**. Now is the time to think about winter jackets and boots! Get in touch with Karen to ask about what is currently available because it won't be there for long!

